

President to order the completion of the border wall and finally—finally—keep all Americans safe.

REMEMBERING THE HONORABLE ELLA SCARBOROUGH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember my friend who was a champion for the people of Charlotte, Mecklenburg County, and North Carolina; a trailblazer for Black women, especially those in public service; and a sincere, authentic, and humble servant of God who always looked out for “the least of these”: the Honorable Ella Butler Scarborough.

I include in the RECORD, Madam Speaker, a remembrance from her colleagues on the Mecklenburg County Commission that reads in part: “Commissioner Scarborough’s passion was limitless, and her loss is immeasurable.”

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

STATEMENT FROM THE MECKLENBURG BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS—ELLA SCARBOROUGH, CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

The Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners was saddened to learn of the passing of Commissioner Ella Butler Scarborough.

Commissioner Scarborough was more than a colleague or public figure. Throughout her life, Commissioner Scarborough was a pillar in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg community who made an immense impact, especially on the lives of our most vulnerable and marginalized citizens.

Commissioner Scarborough was elected to the Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners in 2014, and went on to serve as Chair from 2016 to 2018, making her the first African American woman to be elected to that position.

Prior to serving on the Board of County Commissioners, Commissioner Scarborough made history as the first African American woman to be elected to the Charlotte City Council, serving from 1987 to 1997 (district and at-large). She was also a statewide candidate for U.S. Senate in 1998 and ran for Charlotte mayor in 1999 and 2001. In 2008, Commissioner Scarborough served as a North Carolina delegate at the Democratic National Convention. In the 1960s, during her youth in South Carolina, she became known for her activity in the civil rights movement.

A fierce advocate for youth literacy, solutions to homelessness and equality, Commissioner Scarborough’s tireless efforts and dedication to the community at-large was exemplary and instrumental in eliminating inequities that created challenges for many in our community.

Commissioner Scarborough was a member of Friendship Missionary Baptist Church. She was the devoted mother to two children and widow of Levern “Pete” Scarborough. She graduated from South Carolina State University with a degree in library science education and earned a master’s degree from the University of Charleston in West Virginia in organizational leadership.

Commissioner Scarborough’s passion was limitless, and her loss is immeasurable. Our prayers go out to her family, friends and the entire Mecklenburg County community that is a better place today due to her dedication.

Signed—The Mecklenburg Board of County Commissioners:

Chairman—George Dunlap, District 3.
Vice Chair—Elaine Powell, District 1.
Pat Cotham, At-Large.
Leigh Altman, At-large.
Wilhelmenia I. Rembert, Temporary At-Large.
Vilma D. Leake, District 2.
Mark Jerrell, District 4.
Laura Meier, District 5.
Susan Rodriguez-McDowell, District 6.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, Ella’s loss is immeasurable in part because she was a veteran of the civil rights movement going all the way back to her youth in South Carolina. The consciousness and her conscience of that movement was seen in her work as a pillar of our community who fought for our vulnerable and marginalized.

She worked for equality and equity not only for Black Americans but for every community. She worked for the homeless and unhoused; she worked for youth literacy and public education.

Even as her health failed, she never stopped fighting.

Like many HBCU graduates from her generation, she made history. She was the first African-American woman elected to the Charlotte City Council and the first to serve as the chair of the Mecklenburg County Commission. Her leadership opened doors and inspired others. She encouraged other Black women to run and serve.

But Ella was the kind of person who was more concerned about the work she did than the history she made. She was a true child of the civil rights generation. She was the great-grandniece of the legendary Mary McLeod Bethune. Her entire family was involved in the movement.

When she was 17, she put her body and her life on the line to integrate a segregated movie theater in her community. Five years later, as a student at South Carolina State, she did the same at a bowling alley in Orangeburg. This time the activists were not so lucky. South Carolina Highway Patrol officers fired into the crowd of students—Ella’s friends—killing 3 and injuring 10 times as many. Ella was spirited away out of danger by a member of the football team.

It is a blessing that Ella was spared that day to continue her fight. Even when she was jailed in the fight to end Jim Crow, she never stopped fighting, and she never forgot her blessings.

However, overcoming adversity and integrating segregated spaces was something she had done since the day she was born.

As Charlotte’s Hannah Hasan wrote:

She has been fighting since birth. She was born premature; 3 pounds. At that time Black babies weren’t guaranteed an incubator, so her little body had to fight just to exist.

Indeed, when her father convinced the hospital to admit baby Ella to the ICU in Sumter, she became the first Black baby in that space. Perhaps that miracle was why she was never afraid. It was a miracle.

But the greater miracle of Ella Scarborough was that after she counted her many blessings, she extended those blessings to others, both as a member of her faith home, Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, and then as an elected official and public servant.

Blessings are not just ours to have but to give.

That was the lesson that I hope we can all learn from Councilwoman, Commissioner, and Chairwoman Ella Scarborough as we honor and remember her today.

GETTING GUN CRIMINALS OFF THE STREETS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCCLINTOCK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, the mass shootings across our country cry out for solutions that work. The good news is we know what works, and we also know what doesn’t work.

We have been passing gun control laws for more than 50 years. The number of American households with firearms has dropped significantly in those years.

So let me ask: Are things getting better or worse?

We know this from decades of experience: Gun control laws are extremely effective at disarming law-abiding citizens. They are completely ineffective at disarming criminals, madmen, and terrorists. They create a world where law-abiding citizens are defenseless and the gunman is king.

The day after the Uvalde massacre, a criminal with an AR-15-style rifle shot into a crowd that was gathered for a graduation party in Charleston, West Virginia. A woman with a concealed weapon shot him dead on the spot. Nobody else was hurt. Had that occurred on a school property or other so-called gun-free zone, the death toll could easily have been counted by the dozens.

The left scoffs at the notion that only a good guy with a gun can stop a bad guy with a gun.

Well, do they know of any other way? There is none.

The only question is how long it will take for that good guy with a gun to show up. It has often been said that the police can be there in minutes when seconds count. And what we found time and again is that even when the police get there, they don’t always act.

Those who are directly threatened by a gunman are those who are in the best position to stop such an attack because they are there on the spot and their lives depend on it. And yet the left won’t let them.

We think nothing of seeing an armed guard at a bank or a shopping mall. They are there to protect our money and our merchandise by killing bad guys with guns. Yet the left goes berserk when anyone suggests that we do the same thing to protect our children.

What makes the left believe gun laws will be any more effective at keeping